

THE OUTSIDER

JIM NICODEM | FEBRUARY 26 & 27, 2022

LUKE 2:22-35

Introduction

1. Israel's _____

2. Jesus' _____

3. Our _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1 . Describe a situation in which you were an outsider. How did that make you feel?
- 2 . Read the Introduction to Luke in an NIV Study Bible and make a list of 5-10 things you learn about this book. (If you don't have access to an NIV Study Bible, make your list after googling Bible Project Luke and watching the first of two 8-minute videos.)
- 3 . Read Luke 1:1-4. How would you respond to someone who says the biographies of Jesus in the Bible are nothing but exaggerated legends written hundreds of years after Jesus lived?
- 4 . Read Luke 2:21-30. Note all the indications that the event described here was for Jewish insiders.
- 5 . Read Genesis 12:1-3. What mission did God give Abraham, the father of the Jewish people? How might God's Old Testament people have been a blessing to outsiders? 6. From what you know of Israel's history in OT times, how well did they carry out their mission? Explain.
- 7 . If you're a Christ follower, what are some ways in which you are currently connecting (or could possibly connect) with spiritual outsiders that would draw them toward salvation?
What kind of Savior were first century Jews expecting? Whom did Jesus come to save--and from what? (See John 3:16, 17 and I Timothy 1:15.)
- 8 . Read Luke 2:28-32. What phrases in these verses point to Jesus' universality? What did the prophet Isaiah say to Jewish insiders about their coming Savior in Isaiah 40:5, 52:10 and 49:6?
- 9 . Read Luke 2:33-35. What event did Simeon prophesy by describing a sword that would pierce Mary's soul? How would this event make salvation available to everyone?
- 10 . Who are those described as falling or rising in v.34? Are all those who hang out in insider circles saved? Explain. What's the difference between merely believing certain truths about Jesus and actually surrendering to him as Savior and King?
What is one application for your life from this study?

PRAYER PROMPT: "Insider/Outsider" - Think of someone in your community of believers that has helped you grow as a Christ follower. Pray with gratitude for that person, celebrating the ways they have blessed your faith journey. Now think of someone that is not yet a follower of Jesus. Pray with gratitude for that person, and ask God to show you ways you can bless them and invite them into a relationship with Jesus.